

Newport Outdoor Group



Putting our best boots forward since 1960

Editors

Mike Alder-Woolf
& Nick Meyrick

"The hostel at Elmscott was a throwback to traditional small rural hostels, except for the large television which came in very handy for watching the football World Cup and the Glastonbury Festival coverage."

Get The Outdoor Habit!

Tour de France or Tour of Yorkshire?

3rd to 7th July

By Norman Roberts

A wonderful trip, a wonderful event, wonderful weather, and wonderful support from the Yorkshire public. A truly memorable trip to Haworth hostel in West Yorkshire made by 9 members of the group, Liz and Paul, Sue and Colin, Colin Prosser, Kevin, Somesh, Norman and Jackie.

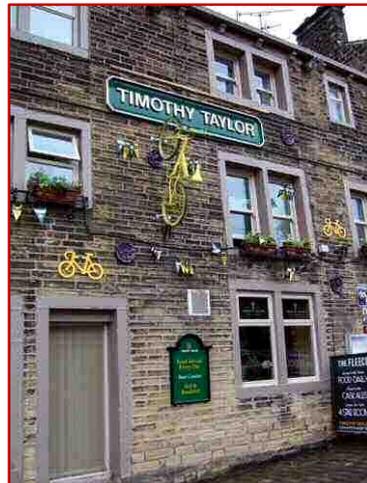
We visited several locations in the Haworth area to watch the cycling during the 5 day trip, including Ilkley, Keighley, Oxenhope, and Haworth itself. Park areas were set aside at both Howarth and Ilkley for the thousands of spectators to watch the Tour on big screens.

On Saturday, stage 1 of the race travelled from Leeds to Harrogate. Jackie, Norman, Kevin, and Somesh travelled by train to Ilkley to watch the cyclists pass through the centre of town, followed by a few hours in the Riverside Gardens to watch the end of the race (alas Mark Cavendish took a tumble at the end and dislocated his shoulder). The remainder of the group stayed in the Haworth area for stage 1. On Sunday, stage 2 took the cyclists from York to Sheffield. Some of the group watched the race high up on Oxenhope moor, whilst the remainder headed for the cobbled street through Haworth.

Kevin kept us all aware of the Tour details with his magazine full of interesting information and great pictures. He is the Le Tour expert.

Yet again the NOGs were blessed with perfect weather for the two race stages, following similar conditions the previous weekend at Elmscott Hostel. (Read write up's of this trip below – Ed.)

This special trip is best remembered in photos – see below!





Elmscott (Part 1)

by Kevin Holmes

On the way up to Elmscott, Nigel kindly gave me a lift to the hostel, and we decided to make a day of it; so we stopped on route in Barnstaple. We found a car park in the city and decided to pay for 2 hours! First point of call, find an elderly lady who could point us in the direction of the information office. Mission accomplished we had the added bonus that it was located at the museum, so good opportunity for a visit in the museum and a tea and generous portion of sliced cake!!

Whilst here we picked up the heritage trail leaflet and set off around the city picking up all the landmarks. My highlight was visiting a couple of Almhouses which were well maintained, and the walk alongside their river. As the leaflet was not to scale, it was a challenge. Having completed the route within our 2 hrs we headed back to the car park, only problem was it was the wrong car park!!

On arriving at the correct car park, I notice a man patrolling the car park; are we going to get a ticket; so we hasten to the car. Nigel confident that he has not noticed the car chooses to check his phone for messages and as minutes pass by; a man knocks on his window to politely say you should have left 14 minutes ago; and a nice man he never booked us. We then headed to the hostel and arrived just after opening time at 5pm.



More photos of Elmscott and Barnstable appear below

Elmscott (Part 2)

by John Thompson

Eleven NOGs enjoyed a glorious weekend at Elmscott, a remote location in North Devon. The tortuous approach on the narrowest of country lanes had some of us marvelling at how we managed without satnavs. I went some way to proving that walking shoes or boots, though desirable, are not strictly necessary given good underfoot conditions, having left mine on a bus on the outward journey.

The hostel was a throwback to traditional small rural hostels, except for the large television which came in very handy for watching the football World Cup and the Glastonbury Festival coverage. Even better it had a wonderfully friendly and helpful volunteer warden who quickly came to seem like one of the group. Saturday's walk soon reached the coast path along which we walked north to Hartland Quay with marvellous coastal views, bright sunshine, blue skies and lively seascapes accompanied by the sounds of waves and birdsong and the occasional refreshing light breeze.

This perfect walking weather was to last all through the weekend. It was a varied and fairly gentle 8 mile walk expertly led by Norman without a lot of ascents and descents. After turning inland we enjoyed some woodland and a river valley arriving at Hartland Abbey, which was to have been our lunch stop, only to find it was closed to the public due to a wedding. So we lunched in a churchyard instead. The walk back to the hostel was agreeably punctuated by a tea shop stop where several of us enjoyed an excellent Devon cream tea.

Yet another highlight was an evening meal in a quaint country inn which dates back to medieval times, which for several of us featured superb locally caught fresh mackerel. Sunday's walk was a challenging 12 miles including a spectacular stretch of the coast path to the south of the hostel.

A few people, no doubt mindful of the long journey home, opted for a much shorter route back to the hostel from the lunch stop while the rest of us continued along the undulating coast and over the county border into Cornwall to the village of Morwenstow, where we had another pleasant afternoon tea shop stop before returning on an inland route with a welcome pub stop.

P.S. I managed to retrieve my walking shoes.

Elmscott



Barnstaple

